

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments to the application is requested on the grounds that the claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record or, alternatively, place the application in better condition for appeal. The claims more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. No new issues have been added which would require further consideration and/or search, nor has any new matter been added. The claims as amended are believed to avoid the rejections applied in the Final Office Action for reasons set out more fully below.

The Final Office Action of August 28, 2003 has been received and carefully reviewed. It is submitted that, by this Communication, all bases of rejection and objection are traversed and overcome. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 3-13 and 18-19 remain in the application. New claims 20-23 have been added. Claims 1, 2 and 14-17 have been cancelled.

The Examiner states that claims 11-13 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. It is submitted that these claims have been so rewritten. As such, it is submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance, notice of which is respectfully requested.

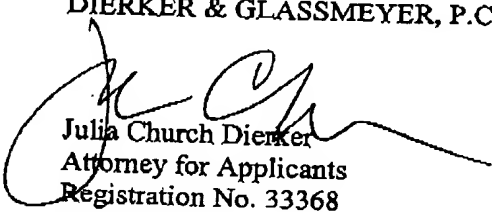
Applicants further respectfully submit that claims 3-4, 7-10 and 19, as well as new claims 20-23 all depend ultimately from the previously allowed claim (5) or the rewritten independent and allowable claims (11 and 18). As a result, Applicants respectfully submit that the dependant claims are also in a condition suitable for allowance.

In summary, it is submitted that claims 3-13, 18, and 19 as amended, and new claims 20-23, are now in a condition suitable for allowance. Should the Examiner believe otherwise, it is submitted that the claims as amended qualify for entry as placing the application in better form for appeal.

Further and favorable consideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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